

Mali desert locust update for the first dekad in December, 2005

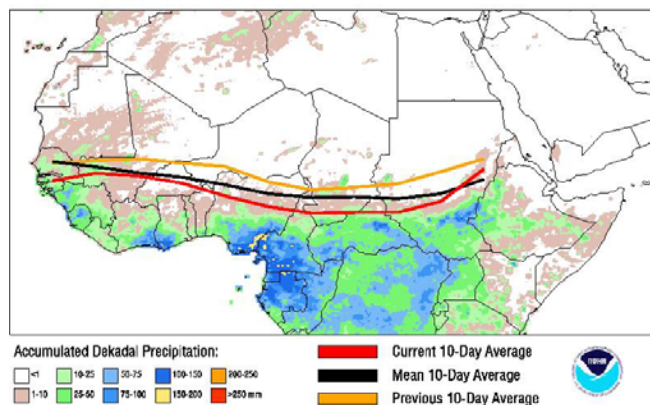
Summary

The desert locust situation remained calm in Mali during the first dekad of December. Operations were not necessitated during this period and very few isolated individuals may be present in patches of arboreal vegetation. Significant developments are not expected in the weeks to come.

Meteorological and ecological conditions

Ecological conditions continued to deteriorate after the rains ended in late October. Cold weather began setting in over most of the outbreak areas with the temperatures ranging from 20° C to 35° C during the day and 10° C to 20° C at night during the first dekad of the month. Only a few pockets of green vegetation are present in the gregarization areas in Timetrine and Tamesna, but breeding conditions are not expected to improve anytime soon.

Current vs Mean Position of the Africa ITCZ
As analyzed by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center
October 2005 Dekad 3



Locust situation

According to UNLCP/Mali, the desert locust situation remained calm throughout the outbreak areas in the country and survey or intervention operations were not carried out during this period. Very few isolated individuals may be present in patches of green arboreal vegetation.

Actions taken

There is no ground or aerial survey team in the field at the moment. However, four teams, including a coordination team could be mobilized to Timetrine, Adrar, and Tamesna in a month.

Forecast

Pockets of arboreal vegetation may allow a few isolated individual locusts to survive during the dry season but significant developments are not expected during this time.

Pesticide inventory

According to UNLCP/Mali, there are 254,704 liters of ULV (ultra low volume) pesticides in DPV stores. Most of these are stocks acquired during last year.

A barrel crusher that rinses and crushes empty metal containers, has been installed and is operating.

Breaking news

Several hundred camels were reported dead in Kidal, Tamesna last week. The cause of this incidence, which occurred in a matter of hours, is not yet known. A team of experts from the national veterinary laboratory and services, laboratory of water quality, national health laboratory, laboratory of soils, plants and water and the department of crop protection has been dispatched to the area this past Saturday to investigate the cause of this, rather, unusual incidence. AELGA will keep abreast of the situation and provide updates.

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